

WATERFOWL HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

July 2015-June 2016



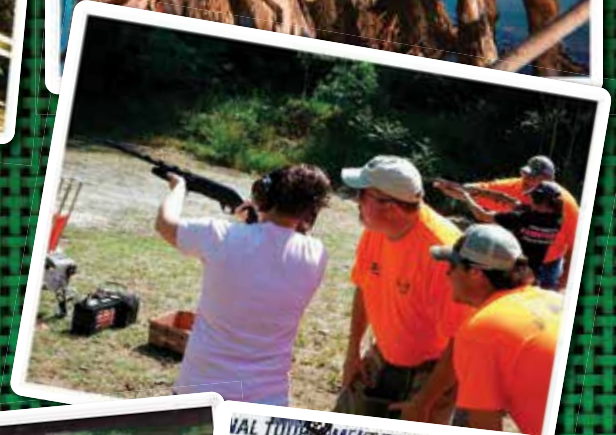
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WATERFOWL HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

July 2015-June 2016



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Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; To provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish, and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; To promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting, and fishing; To provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please write to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Attn: Compliance Officer, 7870 Villa Park Dr, Suite 400, P.O. Box 90778, Henrico, VA 23228.

On the Cover:

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Inside waterfowl illustrations, ©Spike Knuth



©Dwight Dyke

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This publication is to be used as a supplement to Hunting and Trapping in Virginia, 2015-2016 Regulations and is for general use and contains information regarding programs, policies, regulations, rules, or fees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) current at the time of printing. Information may change after printing and any changes will supersede the information in this publication. VDGIF's programs, policies, regulations, rules, or fees can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov. Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode>) or the Game Department Regulation Manual (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title4/agency15>). For answers to specific questions about hunting and fishing, contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries office nearest you or visit www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Caution: More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 5721 South Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23231; phone (804) 771-2883, 771-2280; FAX (804) 222-8421.

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Welcome to another year of great waterfowl hunting opportunities in the Old Dominion! This 2015-2016 digest coincides with the countdown to our agency's 100-year anniversary next June. As we think about the status of wildlife when this Department was created in 1916 and the many success stories that have followed, one cannot help but consider the outlook for the next one hundred years.

Recruiting and introducing new hunters to cherished traditions will help ensure the future of our hunting heritage in Virginia, while serving to benefit wildlife populations via science-based management. The most rewarding duck hunts I have experienced involved hunting with family members and friends, especially young people. With the numerous youth opportunities offered, I encourage you to share your passion of the season by introducing new hunters to the joys of time well spent in the outdoors!

I hope to see you out there!

Bob Duncan
Executive Director, VDGIF

VIRGINIA'S WILDLIFE RESTORATION PROGRAM AND YOU



Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping, and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlife-oriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition, or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration program. Virginia currently receives over \$15 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.



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About this Guide

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The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat programs.

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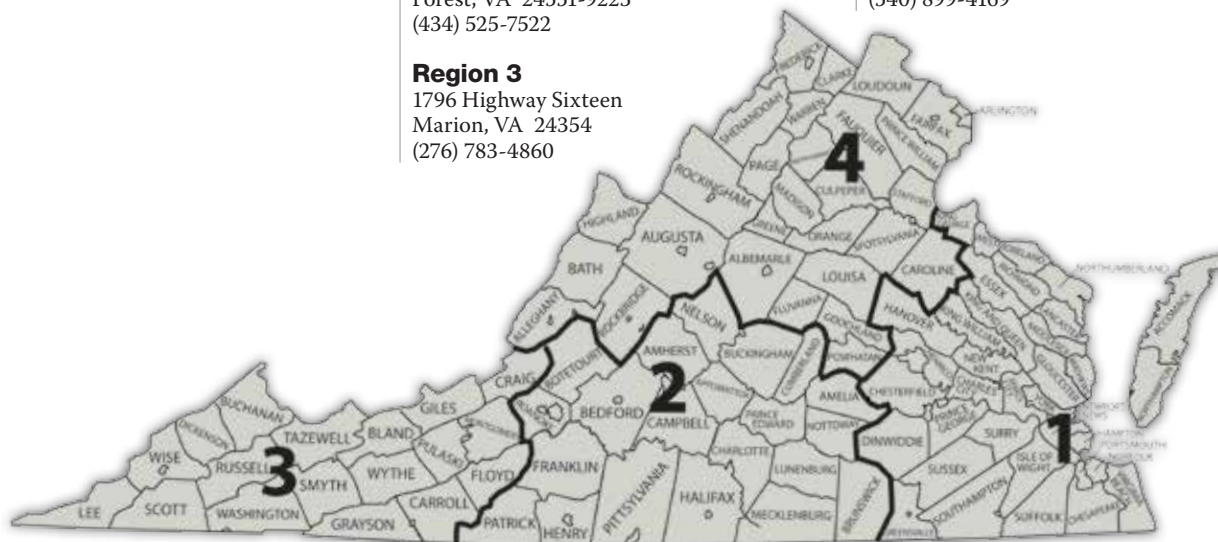
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(434) 977-6555

Department of Conservation and Recreation Reservation Center

www.dcr.virginia.gov

(800) 933-7275

USDA Wildlife Services

(804) 739-7739

U.S. Forest Service Supervisor George Washington and Jefferson Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/gwj

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New Regulations for 2015-2016

Waterfowl Seasons & Bag Limits

- The bag limit for canvasback has been increased to 2 birds per day.
- The bag limit for Atlantic brant has been reduced to 1 bird per day.

Waterfowl Hunting on WMA's

- Game Farm Marsh WMA is open to waterfowl hunting with certain restrictions. See page 8.

General Information

Shooting Hours

No person shall take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting as prescribed. Shooting hours for all waterfowl, all seasons is one-half hour before sunrise until sunset, (except when otherwise permitted in the September Canada Goose season and the Light Goose Conservation Order season). See sunrise-sunset timetable on page 21. **Non-toxic shot is required for all waterfowl hunting.**

Possession Limits

After opening day, the possession limit is now 3 times the daily bag limit, (except for light geese and tundra swans), but no one is allowed to have more than one daily bag limit of game in his possession while in the forests, fields, or waters of this state. Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Non-toxic Shot

Non-toxic shot approved by the Department [steel, bismuth-tin, iron-tungsten, iron-tungsten-nickel (HEVISHOT), copper-clad iron, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten matrix, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-tin-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel, and tungsten-iron-polymer] is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, snipe, and rails. Lead shot is **not allowed** for hunting these species and **cannot be in possession** in the field while hunting these species. Shot size should be no larger than "T".

WATERFOWL HUNTERS – GET HIP!

All hunters (whether licensed or exempt from being licensed) who plan to hunt doves, waterfowl, rails, woodcock, snipe, coots, gallinules, or moorhens in Virginia must be registered with the Virginia Harvest Information Program (HIP). HIP is required each year and a **NEW REGISTRATION NUMBER** is needed for the 2015–2016 hunting season. To obtain a new number, migratory game bird hunters can register online at www.vahip.com or call 1-888-788-9772.

Note: If you travel out of state to hunt migratory game birds you are required to obtain a HIP number for each state you hunt in. Contact each state for their HIP registration process.

Also, Virginia waterfowl hunters must obtain a Federal Duck Stamp and the Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (unless license exempt) to hunt waterfowl in Virginia.

AVIAN INFLUENZA

Should hunters be concerned?

Avian influenza viruses (AI, also called bird flu) can be found in a variety of wild bird species, including waterfowl. The viruses usually do not cause sickness or mortality in waterfowl, but waterfowl can be carriers and pass the disease to other bird species that may be more susceptible. Some viruses may cause significant mortality in poultry, and the recent outbreak of highly pathogenic AI has resulted in significant mortality in commercial poultry flocks in the Western and Midwestern U.S. over the past year. The AI viruses involved in these mortality events are not easily transmitted to animals other than birds, and no human infections have occurred. Although no AI has been detected in the Atlantic flyway as of August 2015, surveillance in wild birds will be initiated nationwide this fall. However, hunters should take basic precautionary measures, if they do not already, when handling harvested waterfowl by following the guidelines listed to the right:

1. Do not handle birds that are obviously sick or birds found dead.
2. Keep your game birds cool, clean, and dry.
3. Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning your birds.
4. Use rubber gloves when cleaning game.
5. Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol wipes after dressing birds.
6. Clean all tools and surfaces immediately afterward; use hot soapy water, then disinfect with a 10% chlorine bleach solution.
7. Cook game meat thoroughly (165°F) to kill disease organisms.

VDGIF staff will be visiting boat ramps and public hunting locations this season to sample hunter-harvested waterfowl for disease monitoring. We ask for your cooperation in this effort as the sampling procedure will only take a minute or two.

For more information on avian influenza:

U.S. Geological Survey
(www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/avian_influenza/index.jsp)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(www.fws.gov/home/avianflu)

World Health Organization
(www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/)

FEDERAL ELECTRONIC OR “E-STAMP” DUCK STAMP PROGRAM

A Federal Duck Stamp is required for all persons 16 years and older in order to hunt waterfowl. Waterfowl hunters can still purchase their Federal Duck Stamp at U.S. Post Offices at a cost of \$25.00, but a new program provides a convenient online option whereby hunters can obtain an E-stamp for \$27.50. The E-stamp is valid immediately following the purchase and for up to 45 days. The actual Federal Duck Stamp will be mailed to the customer within 45 days and must be carried thereafter while hunting waterfowl.

To obtain the E-stamp Federal Duck Stamp go to the Department's website (www.HuntFishVA.com/licenses) and click on hunting and fishing licenses or visit one of over 800 license agents throughout the Commonwealth.



2015 Federal Duck Stamp artwork, by Jennifer Miller
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From clothing, to collectibles, to field guides — there's something for everyone at www.ShopDGIF.com. And for a limited time, enjoy **10% OFF ANY ITEM** in our store. Just enter the code **WATERFOWL** during checkout.



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OFFER EXPIRES MAY 1, 2016

License Fees (Issuance fee is included in the price.)

Resident Hunting Licenses

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase, except the bear license and deer/turkey license (only valid July 1–June 30), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp (only valid July 1–June 30), the apprentice hunting license (valid for 2 years from date of purchase), and lifetime licenses.

LICENSES	FEE
Resident Sportsman's License (age 16 and older)	\$133.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, muzzleloading license, freshwater fishing license, and trout license.	
Resident Hunting License (age 16 and older)	
1-year license	\$23.00
2-year license	\$44.00
3-year license	\$65.00
4-year license	\$86.00
Resident County or City Hunting License (age 16 and older)	\$16.00
For county or city of residence only.	
Resident Apprentice Hunting License	\$11.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
Resident Senior Citizen Hunting License (age 65 and over)	\$9.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license.	
Resident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans	\$12.00
Resident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability upon certification. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
Resident Junior Hunting License (age 12 to 15; optional for under 12 years old)	\$8.50
Resident Youth Combination Hunting License (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	

LICENSES	FEE
Resident Junior Lifetime Hunting License (under age 12)	\$255.00
No annual bear license, deer/turkey license required until age 12. National Forest Stamp, State Forest Use Permit, and Bonus Deer Permits, if applicable, are required in addition to this license. Upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, the license is transferable to a lifetime hunting license at no additional fee. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.	
Resident Legacy Lifetime Hunting License	\$125.00
Must be purchased before age 2. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.	
Resident Lifetime Hunting License	
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.	
Age 12-44 (hunter education course required under age 16)	\$260.00
Age 45-50	\$210.00
Age 51-55	\$160.00
Age 56-60	\$110.00
Age 61-64	\$60.00
Age 65 and over	\$20.00
Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Hunting Lifetime License	\$15.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be obtained in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Veteran Resident Lifetime Hunting License	no charge
For qualified resident disabled veterans. Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license. All other applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online. A license for freshwater fishing is also available.	

IT TAKES A HUNTER TO MAKE A HUNTER

Purchase an Apprentice Hunting License

Where to Obtain a License

- **Online:** At www.HuntFishVA.com. Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay.
- **In Person:** Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents around the state.
- **By Phone:** 1-866-721-6911 during regular business hours.

Nonresident Hunting Licenses

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase, except the bear license, deer/turkey license (only valid July 1–June 30), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp (only valid July 1–June 30), the apprentice hunting license (valid for 2 years from date of purchase), and lifetime licenses.

LICENSE	FEE
Nonresident Hunting License (age 16 and older)	\$111.00
Nonresident 3-Day Hunt License (age 16 and older)	\$60.00
Must be 3 consecutive days including Sundays where Sunday hunting is allowed.	
Nonresident Apprentice Hunting License	\$21.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits may be required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.	
Nonresident Annual Hunting License for 70 Percent Partially Disabled Veterans	\$56.00
Nonresident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Nonresident Veteran Annual Hunting License	\$28.50
For nonresident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having a total and permanent disability that is service connected. Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this hunting license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.	
Nonresident Youth Hunting License (under age 12)	\$13.00
Nonresident Youth Hunting License (age 12 to 15)	\$16.00
Nonresident Youth Combination Hunting License (under age 16)	\$31.00
Includes hunting license, bear license, deer/turkey license, archery license, and muzzleloading license.	
Nonresident Legacy Hunting License	\$250.00
Must be purchased before age 2. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.	
Nonresident Lifetime Hunting License	\$555.00
Annual bear license, deer/turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.	

Miscellaneous Licenses, Permits, and Stamps

One or more of the following may be required in addition to a resident or nonresident hunting license.

LICENSES	FEE
Stationary Blind	\$23.50
All blind licenses are available through the Department's point of sale system. Hunters have the option of requesting a blind plate be sent to them if they do not have one. The blind plate, if requested, and a decal for the plate will be mailed within 3 to 5 business days. Hunters who purchase a blind license online will be able to print out a copy of their application information. A license for their blind will be emailed immediately after the sale is complete.	
When purchasing a stationary blind license, you must provide GPS coordinates along with a description of where the blind is located. These coordinates are needed to help evaluate whether blinds are within the required distances, and they will help in future improvements of the blind licensing process. Coordinates should be reported as latitude and longitude and can be entered in one of three formats: 1) Degrees, minutes, seconds (35° 45' 52"), 2) Degrees and decimal minutes (35° 45.87'), or 3) decimal degrees (35.76°).	
Floating Blind	\$41.00
Offshore Blind Stake (limit 4 per licensee)	\$6.00
Nonresident Hunting (Shooting) Preserve	\$23.00
To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.	

PERMITS	FEE
National Forest Permit	\$4.00
To hunt and trap within National Forest. Not required of residents under the age of 16 to trap; residents who have an annual senior citizen hunting license (\$9.00) or a lifetime license issued before 7/1/88.	
Virginia State Forest Use Permit (age 16 or older)	\$16.00
Allows hunting, trapping, fishing, mountain biking, and horse riding. No motorized vehicles on gated roads/trails (open or closed). Sold in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry.	
Access Permit	\$4.00 per day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The permit fee is \$4 for a daily permit or \$23 for an annual permit. The access permit may be purchased online or at any license agent. Any person, 17 years of age or older, accessing a Wildlife Management Area or DGIF fishing lake must have in possession a valid hunting, freshwater fishing, or trapping license; current boat registration; or access permit. The access permit requirement does not apply to Department-owned boat ramps or segments of the Appalachian Trail on Department-owned land. Daily group rates are available. For more information go to www.HuntFishVA.com/access-permit/. 	

STAMPS	FEE
Federal Migratory Duck E-Stamp	\$27.50
To take migratory waterfowl; required of persons 16 years of age and over in addition to hunting license. Valid July 1 through June 30.	
Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp	\$10.00
Required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt. Valid July 1 through June 30.	

Waterfowl Hunting On Wildlife Management Areas

For information about quota or managed hunts for waterfowl on Department Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's), refer to the 2015–2016 Hunting & Trapping in Virginia, Regulations and Information Digest" or online at www.HuntFishVA.com.

Note: Waterfowl hunting on the Amelia, Briery Creek, and James River Wildlife Management Areas is permitted only on the opening day, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the duck and goose seasons. Waterfowl hunting on the Mattaponi Wildlife Management Area, is per-

mitted only on October 9, 10, 11, and 12 and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays of the duck and goose seasons.

Game Farm Marsh WMA is open for hunting on Friday, Saturday and Monday of the October segment of the duck season, and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays during the November (Nov. 18–29), and December-January (Dec. 19–Jan. 31) segments of the duck season. Hunters may not occupy the area before 5:00 a.m. and must vacate the area by 1:00 p.m.

Hunting on Friday and Saturday of the October segment (Oct. 9 & 10) and on the opening day of the November segment (Nov. 18) and the December–January segment (Dec. 19) will be by Quota hunt only — see page 63 of our Hunting and Trapping Digest or our website.

Outside of the duck season segments listed above, hunting on Game Farm Marsh is open with no restrictions on hunt days, times, or hunter numbers.

Ducks



Seasons

October 9–12 (Black duck closed)

November 18–29

December 19–January 31

Bag Limit

Daily Bag Limit: 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 4 mallards (only 2 can be hen mallards), 4 scoters, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 scaup, 2 pintails, 1 black duck (except closed during Oct. 9–12), 2 canvasbacks, 1 mottled duck, and 1 fulvous whistling duck.

Closed season on harlequin ducks.

The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. No person may take more than one daily bag limit in any one day.

Special Sea Duck Season in the *Special Sea Duck Zone

Sea duck species are scoter, long-tailed duck (formerly oldsquaw), and eider.

Season

October 17–January 31

Bag Limit

7 per day (21 in possession), but may include no more than 4 scoters (12 in possession).

*Special Sea Duck Zone Boundary

Those waters at a distance greater than 800 yards from any shore, island, or emergent vegetation in the following areas: the ocean waters of Virginia, the tidal waters of Northampton and Accomack counties, and the Chesapeake

Bay and each of its tributaries up to the first highway bridge. Back Bay and its tributaries are not included in the special sea duck hunting area.

Outside the Special Sea Duck Zone

Sea ducks may be taken during the regular duck season outside the Special Sea Duck Zone but must be counted as part of the regular duck season daily bag limit.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

October 24, 2015 and February 6, 2016

Statewide. Resident and nonresident youth hunters 15 years of age and under may harvest the allowed daily bag limit of ducks (see above), and other waterfowl, including Atlantic brant, coots, mergansers, gallinules, moorhens, light geese, 2 Canada geese in the Atlantic Population Zone, 5 Canada geese in the Southern James Bay Population and Resident Population zones, 1 tundra swan (if the youth possesses a tundra swan permit) on the designated youth days. Resident youth age 12–15, and nonresident youth age 15 or under, need a valid Virginia hunting license, unless license exempt. All participating youth must be Virginia HIP registered (<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/hunting/hip.asp>). All youth must be accompanied and directly supervised by an adult at least 18 years of age or older who has a valid Virginia hunting license (unless license exempt). The accompanying adult cannot hunt ducks, but may hunt for those species for which there is an open season.

Coots



Seasons

October 9–12
November 18–29
December 19–January 31

Bag Limit

15 per day, 45 in possession.

Mergansers



Seasons

October 9–12
November 18–29
December 19–January 31

Bag Limit

5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser (15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers).

Atlantic Brant



Seasons

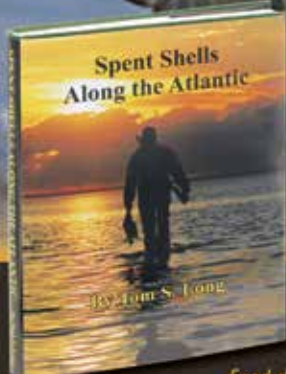
January 2–31

Bag limit

1 per day, 3 in possession.

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Light Goose

(Greater and Lesser Snow Geese and Ross's Geese)



Regular Season

October 17–January 31: statewide

Bag Limit

25 per day, no possession limit.

Conservation Order Season

(See hunt zone in blue below.)

February 1–April 5

Bag Limit

No daily or possession limit.

Special Hunting Methods: Electronic calls and unplugged shotguns are allowed.

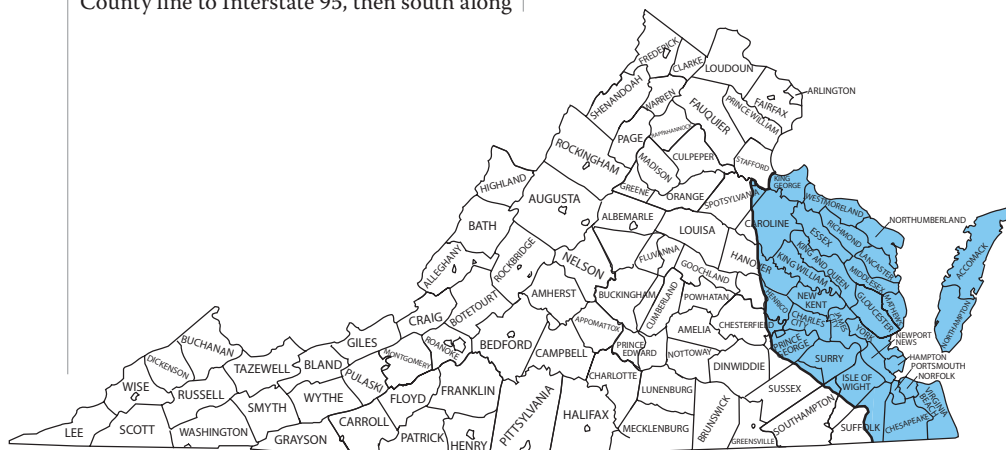
Conservation Order Season Zone

Same as the AP Canada Goose Zone—The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along

Shooting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise and extended to 1/2 hour after sunset only in areas and at times when other waterfowl seasons are closed.

All hunters who plan to participate during this season must register either online (www.HuntFishVA.com/lightgoose) or by phone (866-721-6911), and obtain a Hunter Activity Report prior to hunting. The Hunter Activity Report must be submitted to the Department within two weeks following the close of the season, either through the agency website (above) or by mail (Light Goose Conservation Order, 3801 John Tyler Memorial Highway, Charles City, VA 23030). Registration will begin December 1, 2015.

Interstate 95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina border.



Tundra Swan



Seasons

November 18–January 31

Bag limit

1 per permit.

Tundra Swan Hunt Area

Hunting will be permitted in all counties and portions of counties lying east of I-95 and south of the Prince William/Stafford County line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

Tundra Swan Permit

Before any person may hunt tundra swans in Virginia, he or she must first apply for and receive a tundra swan hunt permit. Permits are issued through a special drawing. The deadline to submit applications for this drawing is September 25, 2015. The Department will issue no more than 600 swan hunting permits. The drawing is open only to holders of a valid

Virginia hunting license. Hunters may apply for a swan permit by mail, online through the agency website (www.HuntFishVA.com), or by telephone at 1-877-VAHUNTS (824-8687).

Swan hunting permits are non-transferable and are valid for use only by the person to whom issued. Permits must be in the immediate possession of the permit holder while swan hunting. Immediately at the time and place of kill successful permittees must cancel their swan hunting permit by permanently recording the month and day of kill and by attaching the permit to the swan as instructed. The DGIF is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this tundra swan hunting season. Hunters are required to complete the accompanying tundra swan hunt questionnaire and return it to the address listed on the questionnaire at the end of your hunt. Those who fail to return a completed questionnaire by February 15, 2016 are ineligible for future drawings.

Canada Goose

(Includes White-fronted Geese)



Atlantic Population Zone (AP) Seasons

November 24–29
December 19–January 31

Bag Limit

2 geese per day (6 in possession).

Resident Population Zone (RP) Seasons

November 18–29
December 19–February 24

Bag Limit

5 geese per day (15 in possession).

Southern James Bay Population Zone (SJB) Seasons

November 18–29
December 19–January 14
January 15–February 15

Bag Limit

3 geese per day: Nov. 18–29 and Dec. 19–Jan. 14.
5 geese per day: Jan. 15–Feb. 15.

Canada Goose Zones

The dividing lines between the hunting zones are as follows:

Atlantic Population (AP) Hunt Zone

The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along Interstate 95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south along Route 32 to the North Carolina border.

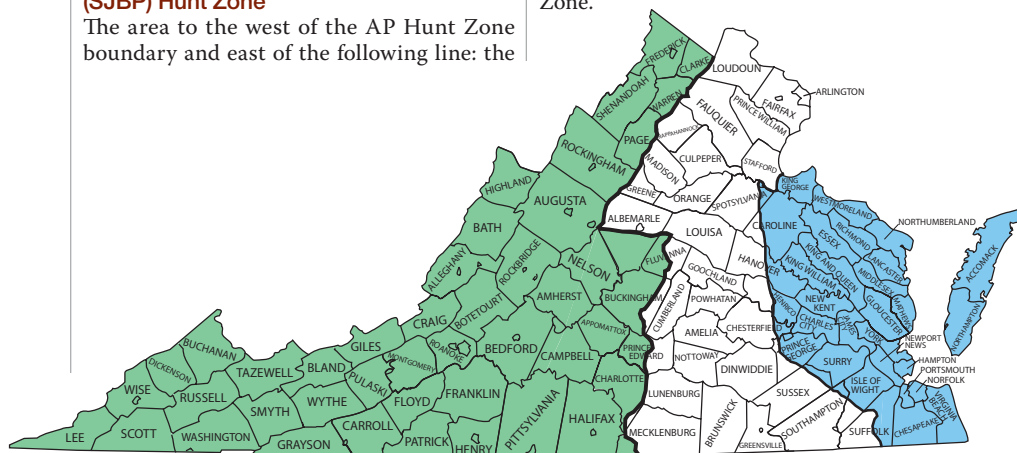
Southern James Bay Population (SJB) Hunt Zone

The area to the west of the AP Hunt Zone boundary and east of the following line: the

“Blue Ridge” (Loudoun County-Clarke County line) at the West Virginia-Virginia border, south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun-Fauquier-Rappahannock-Madison-Green-Albemarle and into Nelson counties), then east along Interstate 64 to Route 15, then south along Route 15 to the North Carolina line.

Resident Population (RP) Hunt Zone

The portion of the state west of the SJB Hunt Zone.



Resident Population Zone

Southern James Bay Population Zone

Atlantic Population Zone

WATERFOWL INFORMATION

The web is a wonderful tool for waterfowlers. Information on season dates and bag limits can be found along with information on waterfowl population status, habitat conditions, as well as current waterfowl research being conducted in Virginia. Sites we recommend include:

Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries Waterfowl Homepage

www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/waterfowl/

USFWS and Flyway Council website

www.flyways.us

Federal Register Documents

www.fws.gov/policy/

What Terms Do I Need to Understand?

Migratory birds are birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with state and federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks,

geese (including brant), swans, mergansers, doves, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock, and snipe.

Daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

Aggregate daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

Possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

Aggregate possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

Personal abode means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure, or business trip.

Migratory bird preservation facility means:

1. Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
2. Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
3. Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations, receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage, or shipment.

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of state Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of state Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.


Baited area means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, dicing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

Natural vegetation means any non-agricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

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Waterfowl Hunting Safety Tips

Cold water combined with foul weather can create hazardous conditions for waterfowl hunters. Because these conditions can be dangerous, some safety tips are provided (below) so hunters can be better prepared before heading out on the water.

Weather

To stay warm and avoid the risks of hypothermia or cold water immersion:

- Control wind and wetness by using waterproof jackets, waders, and boots.
- Wear a belt around your waders to prevent water from entering.
- Wear wool clothing or clothing that stays warm when wet, like some fleece products. Bring extras in a waterproof bag.
- Wear a hat. Most warmth escapes through your head.
- Bring a variety of high energy/sugar content food bars for quick energy and calories.
- Your extremities are very important. It's no fun to hunt with cold feet, hands, or head. Bring waterproof gloves and footwear, and chemical hand and foot warmers that you can put inside your gloves or boots.

- If you fall in—go home! Or, take a break and change into warm, dry clothes.

Duck Boat Safety

When planning a hunt, check to be sure the boat is in good working condition and includes enough gas for the trip, all necessary safety gear, and boat lights and flashlights in good working order. Hunters must follow all boating rules, and everyone on board should wear a properly fitted U.S.C.G. approved life jacket, vest, or flotation coat anytime while on the water. Cell phones and radios are important communication devices and should be properly charged and kept in a waterproof bag. A GPS unit is helpful in finding your way but don't depend solely on it as a means of navigation, as reception varies and units can fail.

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Choose a route close to shore and avoid crossing large expanses of open water, especially in bad weather.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Don't overload your boat. Check the capacity plate and keep the amount of gear, dogs, and people within your weight limits. Also, be sure the load is properly balanced and try to keep movements and weight shifts (dogs and people) to a minimum. Overloading, sudden shifts in weight, or excessive weather

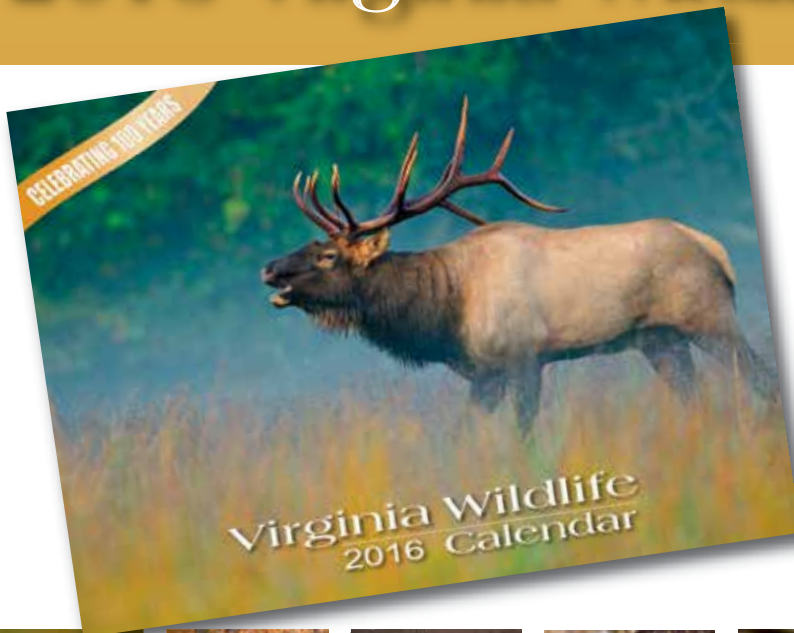
conditions are the most common causes of boats capsizing or swamping.

- If your boat does capsize or swamp, stay with it. Even when filled with water it will provide some floatation and is easier to see by potential rescuers.
- Firearms should be unloaded and properly secured in a case while being transported in a boat. Floating gun cases earn their keep if one happens to go overboard.
- Be extra careful when shooting from a boat. Small boats often have little room to swing a shotgun, so be aware of where dogs and other partners are, and only shoot when all is clear. Never stand in an unsecured boat to shoot.
- Leave a float plan with a responsible person that includes the names of all persons in your party, type and registration number of your boat, time and location of your hunt, and when you expect to return.

Waterfowl hunting can be safer and more enjoyable if you plan ahead and make safe practices part of your water-based hunt. Safety is always the first and most important measure of a successful hunt.

Duck boat safety tips contributed by the Virginia Waterfowlers Association
www.vawfa.org

2016 Virginia Wildlife Calendar



Inside find stunning photographs and information about Virginia's most charming wildlife species, favorable fishing and hunting times, moon phases, and more!

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Lawful Hunting Methods

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl and coots on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl and coots**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

Wanton waste of migratory game birds

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Non-toxic Shot

No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans, coots, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules, rails or snipe while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see page 4 or www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdissues/nontoxic.htm.

Opening Day of a Season

No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field Possession Limit

No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Tagging requirement

No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his per-

sonal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

Custody of birds of another

No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Termination of possession

Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

Gift of migratory game birds

No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

Transportation of birds of another

No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Species identification requirement

No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

Marking package or container

No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge specific regulations see www.fws.gov/refuges/.



Unlawful Hunting Methods

- Hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, with a gun, firearm, or other weapon, or to hunt or kill any deer or bear with a gun, firearm, or other weapon with the aid or assistance of dogs, on Sundays. **Exceptions to Sunday hunting prohibition:**

1. Raccoons may be hunted until 2:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.
2. Waterfowl may be hunted on Sundays subject to geographical limitations established by the Director and except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
3. Any landowner or member of his family or any person with written permission from the landowner may hunt or kill any wild bird or wild animal, including any nuisance species, on the landowner's property on Sunday, except within 200 yards of a place of worship or any accessory structure thereof.
4. Hunting is permitted on licensed shooting preserves.

No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply to crows and during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e., greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese);
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut

off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased;

- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply to crows or during dates states have selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e., greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese);
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

VIRGINIA MIGRATORY WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMP

The artwork for the 2015 Virginia State Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp by Guy Crittenden depicts a pair of tundra swans flying over the James River.

Guy began drawing and painting at a very early age and exhibited in his first art show at age 13. Growing up in the rural county of Gloucester, Virginia on the Chesapeake Bay, he found his passion in the natural wonders around him. Hunting, fishing and crabbing were just a way of life for the young man who was a self-described "river rat." His connection to wildlife began almost as soon as he could walk as a child. When he was five years old, his grandfather would wake him an hour before sunrise to go fishing in secret spots on the Ware River. As Guy grew older, he embraced his curiosity of nature. With an academic approach to his observations, he began to draw and paint the world to which he was so connected. Today, his work still grounded in the influence of those early years, Guy prefers to work in oils and his subjects are best described as landscapes, wildlife, and sporting scenes. He is a five-time winner of the Virginia Duck Stamp.

In a new agreement with Virginia Ducks Unlimited, Crittenden Studio will be the exclusive publisher of the 2015 Virginia Duck



2015 Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp artwork.

©Guy Crittenden

Stamp print, which became available March 21, 2015. For more information, visit <http://crittendenstudiostore.com/>.

A Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is required of all persons, unless license exempt, 16 years of age and older hunting or taking any migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, brant, and swans) within the commonwealth. The annual duck stamp can be purchased for a fee of \$10 (resident or nonresident) at license agents or clerks who sell Virginia hunting licenses, or from the Department's website.

Waterfowl Blind Laws

General

The laws governing the licensing and location of waterfowl blinds are included in the Code of Virginia, promulgated by the General Assembly. These are implemented by regulations adopted by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Blinds Generally

Blinds located west of I-95 are not subject to these laws and regulations, nor do they apply to blinds located in Accomack and Northampton counties. No new blind licenses will be issued for additional stationary blinds in the City of Virginia Beach. Floating blinds may not anchor within 500 yards of any licensed stationary blind.

Stationary Blind

Is a structure erected at a fixed location either on the shores of the public waters or in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl. A stationary blind shall be (1) of such size and strength that it can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, or (2) large enough

to accommodate and conceal a boat or skiff from which one or more hunters intend to hunt or shoot waterfowl.

Floating Blind

Is a floating device, whether in motion or anchored, that can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, uses a means of concealment other than the device's paint or coloration, and is used in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl.

Offshore Blind Stake Site

Is a specific location in the public waters where a stake is licensed for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl from a licensed floating blind. Valid only in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond.

Waterfowl Blind License

Stationary, floating blind, and offshore blind stake licenses are available during the time periods listed below from any license agent through the Department's point of sale system, or online on our website (www.HuntFishVA.com). Hunters have the option of requesting a blind plate be sent to them if they do not have one. The blind plate, if requested, and a decal for the plate will

be mailed within 3 to 5 business days. Hunters who purchase a blind license online will be able to print out a copy of their application information. A license for their blind will be emailed immediately after the sale is complete. The license plate furnished must be affixed to the blind at a location where it can be easily seen.

Spacing of Blinds Generally

Except for adjacent landowners, licensed stationary blinds may be placed no closer than 500 yards to each other, except they may be placed closer together with the mutual consent of the licensees involved. Except for county exceptions, listed on page 17–18, floating blinds may be positioned no closer than 500 yards to any licensed stationary blind, whether it is occupied or not, without consent of the owner of the neighboring blind.

Rights of Riparian Landowner

The owners of riparian rights or their invitees shall not be required to obtain a stationary blind license when hunting waterfowl from such a blind located on the riparian owner's property. However, a stationary blind license shall be required in order to afford the riparian owners the protections provided by Virginia law. The owner of riparian rights, his lessee or permittee

WHEN BLIND LICENSES ARE SOLD

Riparian landowners or their lessees or permittees licensing a stationary blind that was not licensed the previous year by the riparian owner, lessee, or permittee may purchase a stationary blind license from February 1 through June 15. A stake or a stationary blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by June 30. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

Riparian owners or their lessees or permittees licensing a stationary blind that was licensed the previous year by the riparian owner, lessee, or permittee may purchase a stationary blind license from February 1 through August 15.



A stake or a stationary blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by August 31. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

A nonriparian license for a stationary blind in the public waters that was licensed the previous year as a nonriparian stationary blind may be obtained by the previous year's licensee beginning July 1 through August 15. A stake or blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto, by August 31. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake shall be replaced by a blind by November 1.

A stationary blind or a site in the public waters that is not licensed and posted by August 31 can be licensed as a nonriparian blind beginning September 1 through October 15. A stake or blind shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season must be affixed thereto. If a stake has been erected on the site of a stationary blind, such stake must be replaced by a blind by November 1.

Floating Blind licenses: on or after July 1.

Offshore Blind Stake Site license for nonriparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind in counties where floating blinds are prohibited: November 1–10.

Offshore Blind Stake Site license for riparian owner who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind in counties where floating blinds are prohibited: November 11–15.

has exclusive privileges of licensing blinds on his shoreline and prior rights of licensing and erecting blinds in the public waters in front of such shoreline. These blinds shall not be located in water deeper than eight feet at mean high tide, nor shall they be farther than halfway across the body of water from the riparian owner's shoreline, except on the shores and waters of Back Bay in the City of Virginia Beach where such blinds are limited to (i) the riparian owner's shoreline at the mean low water mark or (ii) blinds erected and licensed by the riparian owner in 2011. No other blind may be located within 500 yards of this stake or blind without consent of the owner, permittee, or lessee. The stake must be replaced by an erected stationary blind as specified by Code by November 1 to be a licensed blind under the law. Where the lands of two property owners adjoin, each may place blinds on his property or in the public waters in front of his property without regard to the placement of blinds on his neighbor's property.

Rights of Nonriparian Owner

Although the law states that a riparian owner who does not license a blind on his shore by August 31 forfeits the privilege for that season, it does not mean a nonriparian owner can erect or license a blind on the property of another without permission. If a landowner has not licensed a stake or a blind by August 31, a nonriparian owner may license a location in the public waters in front of such land, providing no other location within 500 yards has been so licensed. Such blind shall not be located in a marked navigation channel. A nonriparian license for a blind that was licensed the previous year as a nonriparian blind can be purchased from July 1 through August 15, and a plate with current decal must be affixed to a stake or blind by August 31. A nonriparian license for a blind or blind site not previously licensed the year before can be purchased from September 1 through October 15, and a plate and current decal must be affixed to it by November 1.

Of course, if a location is secured through agreement with a riparian landowner having control of the near shoreline, the site may be licensed as applies to a permittee or lessee of a landowner. A nonriparian owner, having licensed a blind in a given location, has first option to license such blind each year unless the riparian landowner having claim to that location exercises his right to license it.

Riparian Owner's Rights Renewed Annually

If a riparian owner fails to exercise his options, he may elect to do so the following year, thus preempting any rights of nonriparian owners who have erected blinds in the public waters in front of his shoreline.

Penalty for Violations

Any person who hunts or shoots migratory waterfowl in the public waters of this Commonwealth from a boat, float, raft or other buoyant craft or device within 500 yards of any legally

licensed erected stationary blind of another without the consent of the licensee shall be guilty of a criminal offense that is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor. This provision shall not apply to any person when in active pursuit of a visible crippled waterfowl which was legally shot by the person.

Additionally, any person who erects a stationary blind within 500 yards of another licensed blind without permission of the licensee is guilty of a trespass, and the owner of the blind so encroached upon may maintain an action for damages. It should be noted that this is a criminal offense. It should also be noted that by November 1 a stationary blind must be erected; therefore, a stake with a stationary license affixed thereto cannot be considered to be a stationary blind after November 1.

Loss of Blind License

The violation of any of the provisions of law or regulations as to hunting migratory waterfowl from licensed blinds shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor and, in addition to other authorized penalties, the trial court shall immediately revoke the license of the blind owner who will have the same privileges as a new applicant to apply for a blind license the following year. Any

blind for which the license has been revoked shall be destroyed by the former licensee.

Accidental Destruction of Blind

If a blind is destroyed in any manner beyond the control of the owner, it may be replaced within 30 days without losing the position it formerly occupied.

Number of Stationary Blinds Permitted

Clubs or individuals who do not own riparian rights shall be permitted to license no more than two stationary blinds in the public waters in any one season.

Floating Blinds, Where Prohibited

The use of floating blinds is prohibited in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond in any of the public marshes, guts, streams, branches, creeks, or bays, including among others, Green Bay and Port Tobacco Bay, flowing into the Rappahannock River or in any of its tributaries, or in Buckner's Creek, Nomini Creek and Nomini Bay, flowing into the Potomac River or any of its tributaries, **except from a licensed Offshore Blind Stake Site.** (See page 18 for details.)

ATTENTION HUNTERS: MIGRATORY BIRD BANDING PROJECTS

The Department captures and leg-bands a number of migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, brant, swans, and doves as part of our annual monitoring programs. Analysis from the recoveries of leg-banded birds provides biologists with important information on bird distribution, harvest rates, and survival. Hunters recovering any banded migratory game bird can keep the band, but remember to report the recovery information by either calling the toll-free number 1-800-327-BAND (this number is also written on the band), or reporting it online at the USGS website, www.report-band.gov. After reporting the band you will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" that includes information about where and when the bird was banded. For more information on the banding projects or other Department migratory bird programs, visit our website at www.HuntFishVA.com.



Photo by Gary Costanzo, DGIF

Please help us help you manage migratory game birds in Virginia by reporting banded birds.

1-800-327-BAND (2263) or www.reportband.gov

This number is ONLY for reporting USFWS bands. Private bands cannot be reported on this number.

Offshore Blind Stake Sites

A nonriparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the 5-county area identified above and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply for a license for offshore blind stake sites. The license for an offshore blind stake site may be obtained from November 1 through November 10 of each year. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 10.

From November 11 through November 15 of each year, any riparian owner and any other person who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the areas noted above, and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply for a license for any remaining offshore blind stake sites. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 15.

Offshore blind stakes shall be removed from the public waters within 15 days of the close of the waterfowl season.

Placement of Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford Counties

No stationary blind shall be more than 300 yards from shore, except in waters less than 600 yards wide, in which case the blind may be no more than half the width of the water from shore. This distance is measured from the low water mark.

No license shall be issued for stationary waterfowl blinds on the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas.

Floating Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford Counties

Floating blinds must be anchored and located no closer to another's blind than 400 yards unless person has written permission of blind owner. Such blinds must be taken in at a half hour after sunset.

In the area adjacent to the National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas floating blinds must be attached to a Game Department-placed post or buoy. Only one floating blind per post. These are on a first-come, first-served basis; sites to be occupied no earlier than 4:00 a.m. or later than one-half hour after sunset, and blinds removed each day. Hunters in licensed floating blinds can hunt from designated locations during legal shooting hours on Thanksgiving Day and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the open season.

Placement of Blinds Adjacent to Certain Wildlife Management Areas

No stationary blinds shall be licensed in the waters adjacent to the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Charles City County, the Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County, and the Ragged Island WMA in Isle of Wight County.

Occupied or Unoccupied Blinds

No person shall hunt or shoot migratory waterfowl in the public waters of this Commonwealth from a boat, float, raft or other buoyant craft or device within 500 yards of any legally licensed erected stationary blind of another, whether occupied or not, without the consent of the licensee, except when in active pursuit of a visible crippled waterfowl which was legally shot by the person.

Crippled Waterfowl

When in active pursuit of a visible waterfowl which was legally shot, the hunter may pursue such waterfowl without regard to the 500 yard prohibition protecting licensed waterfowl blinds.

Jump Shooting from Boats

Permitted where appropriate landowner permission has been secured or where generally permitted on public waters. Consult with the local Conservation Police Officer to learn local restrictions. Not permitted within 500 yards of a licensed stationary blind, except with consent of blind owner. If a boat is used for jump shooting and is modified for the purpose of concealing the hunter, it is a floating blind and must be licensed as such. Jump shooting is not permitted from a boat having a motor attached or any sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress therefrom has ceased.

Abandoned Blinds

Those licensing stationary blinds in the public waters shall remove same when licenses are allowed to expire or when they no longer intend to use them, whichever comes first.

Waterfowl Blind Cleanup

Hunters are asked to remove unnatural materials, such as netting, camouflage cloth, wire, or twine from stationary blinds after the waterfowl hunting season. Birds such as ospreys, eagles, and owls often use blind structures for perching and/or nesting. Such materials, if left after the hunting season, can cause injury and even death to these birds if they become entangled in the material.

SPORTSMEN: BOAT SMART, WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Wearing a life jacket may save your life. It is estimated that 80 percent of boating-related drownings could have been prevented had the victim been wearing a life jacket.

The newest type of life jacket, the manual or automatic inflatable, is lightweight and comfortable. They are versatile enough to be worn at any time of the year, and fit easily over a hunting coat or sweater.

Safety Tips

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Wear a life jacket or float coat.
- Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Properly load your boat.
- Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- Dress for the water temperature—guard against hypothermia.
- Leave the alcohol at home.



For more information, contact Boating Education at: BoatSafety@dgif.virginia.gov.

Areas Closed to Waterfowl Hunting

The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 750 yards of a wildlife sanctuary in any city in Virginia.

Taking, attempting to take, pursuing, or disturbing waterfowl is prohibited in the following areas:

- In Virginia Beach on the waters and from the shores of Crystal Lake, Linkhorn and Broad Bay, and Long Creek and their tributaries.
- Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge in Surry County and all of the waters of the James River within a radius of 1,000 yards around that island, with the exception of blinds erected by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.
- The waters of the James River around Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (except for the Turkey Island Cutoff navigational channel) to the mean low water mark on the opposite shore.
- Gaston Reservoir (Roanoke River) from a point beginning at High Rock and extending to the John H. Kerr Dam.
- The public waters extending 1,000 yards out from the marked shoreline of the Lands

End WMA on the Rappahannock River in King George County, with the exception that adjacent landowners may still exercise their riparian rights. Additional information, including a map of this area, can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov/wmas/.

- The waters of the Great Hunting Creek embayment within the City of Alexandria, and the waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County north of Dyke Marsh and south of the City of Alexandria and between the shore and a line 1,000 feet from the Maryland State Line, although waterfowl that have been wounded elsewhere may be pursued into this area.
- The waters of Kane Creek Waterfowl Refuge within the boundaries of Mason Neck State Park in Fairfax County.
- The waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge extending from Sycamore Point northeasterly to Hallowing Point including all tributary creeks, guts, and inlets along the shoreline.
- The portion of the New River that lies entirely within the boundaries of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in the counties of Montgomery and Pulaski.



DO YOU USE A BOAT TO HUNT?

**Boating Safety Courses
Are Required**

Motorboat 10 hp or Greater

- Age 50 or younger, July 1, 2015
- All ages by July 1, 2016

For more information visit:
[www.dgif.virginia.gov/
boating/education/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/boating/education/)

PERMISSION TO HUNT

The person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this form has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your property, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.

I grant _____ my property
permission to _____
on these dates _____
Landowner signature: _____
(over)

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permission to _____
on these dates _____
Landowner signature: _____
(over)



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or call 1-800-710-9369 and mention code **J15HF**

Sorry, no foreign delivery



“Best Of” Edition Launched Online!

As part of the countdown to the 100th anniversary of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in 2016, Virginia Wildlife magazine has launched a free “Best Of” edition online.

Simply go to our homepage at www.huntfishva.com and click on the link. When you are done, be sure to take our short reader survey!

Hunter's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
Auto License No. _____ Driver's License No. _____
I hereby absolve the landowner of all liability for my person while engaged in recreation on his property.

SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE

In return for the privilege of using private property, I agree to:

1. Respect the landowner's property, only go where he/she designates and assume liability for my actions and my person while on this property.
2. Take every precaution against littering and fire.
3. Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.
4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.

Hunter's Signature _____

Hunter's Name _____
Address _____
City _____ St. _____ Zip _____
Phone (_____) _____
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4. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.

Hunter's Signature _____



Sunrise and Sunset Timetable – Richmond, Virginia

Times below are Eastern Standard Time and reflect Daylight Saving Time when in use.

	JULY 2015		AUG. 2015		SEPT. 2015		OCT. 2015		NOV. 2015		DEC. 2015		JAN. 2016		FEB. 2016		MAR. 2016		APR. 2016		MAY 2016		JUNE 2016	
DAY	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)	RISE (AM)	SET (PM)
1	5:52	8:35	6:14	8:18	6:40	7:39	7:05	6:53	6:35	5:12	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:02	7:14	5:33	6:40	6:04	6:55	7:33	6:14	8:00	5:50	8:26
2	5:53	8:35	6:15	8:17	6:41	7:38	7:06	6:52	6:36	5:11	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:03	7:13	5:35	6:39	6:05	6:53	7:34	6:13	8:01	5:50	8:26
3	5:53	8:35	6:15	8:16	6:42	7:36	7:07	6:50	6:37	5:10	7:07	4:52	7:25	5:04	7:12	5:36	6:38	6:06	6:52	7:35	6:12	8:02	5:49	8:27
4	5:54	8:35	6:16	8:15	6:42	7:35	7:08	6:49	6:38	5:09	7:08	4:51	7:25	5:05	7:11	5:37	6:36	6:07	6:50	7:36	6:11	8:03	5:49	8:28
5	5:54	8:34	6:17	8:14	6:43	7:33	7:09	6:47	6:39	5:08	7:09	4:51	7:25	5:05	7:10	5:38	6:35	6:08	6:49	7:37	6:10	8:04	5:49	8:28
6	5:55	8:34	6:18	8:13	6:44	7:32	7:10	6:46	6:40	5:07	7:10	4:51	7:25	5:06	7:09	5:39	6:33	6:09	6:47	7:38	6:09	8:05	5:49	8:29
7	5:55	8:34	6:19	8:12	6:45	7:30	7:10	6:44	6:41	5:06	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:07	7:08	5:40	6:32	6:10	6:46	7:39	6:08	8:06	5:49	8:29
8	5:56	8:34	6:20	8:11	6:46	7:29	7:11	6:43	6:42	5:05	7:12	4:51	7:25	5:08	7:07	5:41	6:31	6:11	6:44	7:39	6:07	8:07	5:48	8:30
9	5:57	8:33	6:20	8:10	6:47	7:27	7:12	6:41	6:43	5:04	7:13	4:51	7:25	5:09	7:06	5:42	6:29	6:12	6:43	7:40	6:06	8:07	5:48	8:30
10	5:57	8:33	6:21	8:09	6:47	7:26	7:13	6:40	6:44	5:03	7:13	4:52	7:25	5:10	7:05	5:43	6:28	6:13	6:41	7:41	6:05	8:08	5:48	8:31
11	5:58	8:33	6:22	8:07	6:48	7:24	7:14	6:39	6:45	5:02	7:14	4:52	7:25	5:11	7:04	5:44	6:26	6:14	6:40	7:42	6:04	8:09	5:48	8:31
12	5:58	8:32	6:23	8:06	6:49	7:23	7:15	6:37	6:46	5:01	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:12	7:03	5:46	6:25	6:15	6:39	7:43	6:03	8:10	5:48	8:32
13	5:59	8:32	6:24	8:05	6:50	7:21	7:16	6:36	6:47	5:01	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:13	7:02	5:47	6:23	6:16	6:37	7:44	6:02	8:11	5:48	8:32
14	6:00	8:31	6:25	8:04	6:51	7:20	7:17	6:34	6:48	5:00	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:14	7:01	5:48	6:22	6:17	6:36	7:45	6:01	8:12	5:48	8:33
15	6:00	8:31	6:26	8:03	6:52	7:18	7:18	6:33	6:49	4:59	7:17	4:53	7:24	5:15	7:00	5:49	6:20	6:18	6:34	7:46	6:00	8:13	5:48	8:33
16	6:01	8:30	6:26	8:01	6:52	7:16	7:19	6:32	6:50	4:59	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:16	6:59	5:50	6:19	6:19	6:33	7:47	5:59	8:14	5:48	8:33
17	6:02	8:30	6:27	8:00	6:53	7:15	7:20	6:30	6:51	4:58	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:17	6:57	5:51	6:17	6:19	6:32	7:48	5:59	8:14	5:48	8:34
18	6:03	8:29	6:28	7:59	6:54	7:13	7:21	6:29	6:52	4:57	7:19	4:54	7:23	5:18	6:56	5:52	6:16	7:20	6:30	7:48	5:58	8:15	5:48	8:34
19	6:03	8:29	6:29	7:57	6:55	7:12	7:22	6:28	6:54	4:57	7:20	4:54	7:22	5:19	6:55	5:53	6:14	7:21	6:29	7:49	5:57	8:16	5:49	8:34
20	6:04	8:28	6:30	7:56	6:56	7:10	7:23	6:26	6:55	4:56	7:20	4:55	7:22	5:20	6:54	5:54	6:13	7:22	6:28	7:50	5:56	8:17	5:49	8:34
21	6:05	8:27	6:31	7:55	6:57	7:09	7:24	6:25	6:56	4:55	7:21	4:55	7:21	5:21	6:52	5:55	6:11	7:23	6:26	7:51	5:56	8:18	5:49	8:34
22	6:06	8:27	6:32	7:53	6:57	7:07	7:24	6:24	6:57	4:55	7:21	4:56	7:21	5:22	6:51	5:56	6:10	7:24	6:25	7:52	5:55	8:18	5:49	8:35
23	6:06	8:26	6:32	7:52	6:58	7:06	7:25	6:22	6:58	4:54	7:22	4:56	7:20	5:23	6:50	5:57	6:08	7:25	6:24	7:53	5:54	8:19	5:50	8:35
24	6:07	8:25	6:33	7:51	6:59	7:04	7:26	6:21	6:59	4:54	7:22	4:57	7:19	5:25	6:49	5:58	6:07	7:26	6:22	7:54	5:54	8:20	5:50	8:35
25	6:08	8:24	6:34	7:49	7:00	7:03	7:27	6:20	7:00	4:54	7:23	4:57	7:19	5:26	6:47	5:59	6:05	7:27	6:21	7:55	5:53	8:21	5:50	8:35
26	6:09	8:23	6:35	7:48	7:01	7:01	7:28	6:19	7:01	4:53	7:23	4:58	7:18	5:27	6:46	6:00	6:04	7:28	6:20	7:56	5:53	8:22	5:51	8:35
27	6:10	8:23	6:36	7:46	7:02	6:59	7:29	6:17	7:02	4:53	7:23	4:58	7:18	5:28	6:45	6:01	6:02	7:29	6:19	7:57	5:52	8:22	5:51	8:35
28	6:10	8:22	6:37	7:45	7:03	6:58	7:30	6:16	7:03	4:53	7:24	4:59	7:17	5:29	6:43	6:02	6:01	7:29	6:17	7:58	5:52	8:23	5:51	8:35
29	6:11	8:21	6:37	7:44	7:03	6:56	7:31	6:15	7:04	4:52	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:30	6:42	6:03	6:09	7:30	6:16	7:58	5:51	8:24	5:52	8:35
30	6:12	8:20	6:38	7:42	7:04	6:55	7:33	6:14	7:05	4:52	7:24	5:01	7:15	5:31			6:58	7:31	6:15	7:59	5:51	8:24	5:52	8:35
31	6:13	8:19	6:39	7:41			7:34	6:13			7:24	5:01	7:15	5:32			6:56	7:32			5:50	8:25		

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

LOCATION	CORRECTION	LOCATION	CORRECTION
Bristol.....	+19 minutes	Newport News.....	-5 minutes
Cape Charles.....	-6 minutes	Norfolk.....	-5 minutes
Charlottesville.....	+4 minutes	Roanoke.....	+10 minutes
Chincoteague.....	-8 minutes	Tazewell.....	+16 minutes
Danville.....	+8 minutes	Williamsburg.....	-3 minutes
Fredericksburg.....	0 minutes	Winchester.....	+3 minutes

Information obtained from:

Astronomical Applications Dept.
Location: W077 28, N37 32
U. S. Naval Observatory
Washington, DC 20392-5420
Eastern Standard Time



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